

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re Application of:

Vogler et al.

Serial No.:

10/646,483

Group Art Unit:

1733

Filed:

August 22, 2003

Examiner:

John L. Goff II

For:

CELLULOSE ESTER BASED PRODUCTS AND METHODS FOR MAKING THEM

Mail Stop AF **Commissioner for Patents** P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF REPLY BRIEF

In response to the Examiner's Answer dated June 25, 2007, Appellants respectfully submit herewith a Reply Brief pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.41. Appellants also file herewith a Request for Oral Hearing, with the requisite fee. If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this Reply Brief that are not enclosed herewith, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 05-0221

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

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REPLY BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.41

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.41, Appellants present this Reply Brief in response to the Examiner's Answer dated June 25, 2007. Appellants file herewith a Request for Oral Hearing.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Appellants submit this Reply Brief to specifically address erroneous assertions set forth in the Examiner's Answer, and to briefly review the law of obviousness in view of the recent holding in KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex, Inc., 127 S.Ct.. 1727; 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007), but without unduly repeating arguments or addressing matters already dealt with in the Appeal Brief.

A. Rejections maintained

Despite the arguments presented in the Appeal Brief, the Office has maintained the following rejections: of claims 12-14 and 17-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cobb, U.S. Pat. No. 3,025,861, ("Cobb '861") in view of McIntosh, U.S. Pat. No. 1,631,750; of claims 1-5, 8, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cobb '861 in view of McIntosh and Pearman, U.S. Pat. No. 3,426,764; of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. as being unpatentable over Cobb '861 and McIntosh as applied to claims 12-14 and 17-21, and further in view of Cobb et al., U.S. Pat. No. 3,106,501 ("Cobb et al. '501"); and of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cobb '861, McIntosh, and Pearman as applied to claims 1-5, 8, and 11, and further in view of Cobb et al. '501.

B. Obviousness inquiry in light of KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex, Inc.

Several basic factual inquires must be made in order to determine the obviousness or non-obviousness of claims of a patent application under 35 U.S.C. § 103. These factual inquiries, set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 17, 148 USPQ 459, 467 (1966), require the Examiner to:

- (1) Determine the scope and content of the prior art;
- (2) Ascertain the differences between the prior art and the claims in issue;
- (3) Resolve the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art; and
- (4) Evaluate evidence of secondary considerations.

The obviousness or non-obviousness of the claimed invention is then evaluated in view of the results of these inquiries. *Graham*, 383 U.S. at 17-18, 148 USPQ 467; see also *KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex, Inc.*, 127 S.Ct.. 1727, 1734; 82 USPQ2d 1385, 1391 (2007).

Thus, in order to satisfy the initial burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness, the Examiner must first show that the prior art references teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). The Examiner must also show that there is some suggestion or motivation, either in the references or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify or combine the references. *In re Rouffet*, 149 F.3d 1350, 47 USPQ2d 1453 (Fed. Cir. 1998). The Supreme Court, in the recent KSR case, recognized that a showing of "teaching, suggestion, or motivation" could provide helpful insight in determining whether the claimed subject matter is obvious under Section 103(a). *KSR*, 127 S.Ct. at 1740-1742.

In addition, the Supreme Court mandates that "[t]o facilitate review, this analysis [of whether there was an apparent reason to combine the known elements in the fashion claimed by the patent at issue] should be made explicit." Id. (citing *In re Kahn*, 441 F.3d 977, 988 (Federal Circuit, 2006) ("[R]ejections on obviousness grounds cannot be sustained by mere conclusory statements; instead, there must be some *articulated reasoning* with some *rational underpinning* to support the legal conclusion of obviousness") (emphasis added)).

Following the KSR decision, the Office issued a memorandum to its technology center directors on May 3, 2007, indicating that "in formulating a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based upon a combination of prior art elements, it remains necessary to identify the reason why a person of ordinary skill in the art would have combined the prior art elements in the manner claimed." (Emphasis in original).

II. ARGUMENT IN REPLY

A. With respect to the rejection of claims 12-14 and 17-21, the reasons articulated in the Examiner's Answer to combine Cobb '861 with McIntosh have no rational underpinning, the only compelling reason being found in Appellants' own disclosure.

The Examiner's Answer asserted that it would have been obvious to form the paper of Cobb '861 coated with cellulose acetate, using the method of forming paper having cellulose acetate incorporated therein as shown by McIntosh, "such that the paper for wrapping the aggregation of fibers is *improved in moisture repellency and durability* and has the further advantage of *eliminating the step of coating the paper* with the cellulose acetate." Page 4, line 20 to page 5 line 3 (emphasis added). This assertion of obviousness is based on the characterization in the Examiner's Answer that McIntosh teaches at page 1, lines 4-40 that "incorporating the cellulose acetate into the paper *as opposed to coating the paper with a resin*, i.e. by impregnating the paper with the resin, intimately and uniformly disperses the cellulose acetate throughout the fibers of the paper as well as on the surface of the paper to form a *moisture repellant and durable* product with the further advantage of *not having to have a step of coating the paper with the resin* in a process of bonding with the paper." Page 4, lines 13-20 (emphasis added).

Appellants respectfully submit that there is no indication in either of the references cited, or in the art generally, that improving the moisture repellency and durability of the paper of Cobb '861 would be an advantage. While moisture repellency and durability are clearly reasons why the "paper product" of McIntosh was produced in the fashion indicated in McIntosh, that does not provide any reason, suggestion, or motivation to modify the paper of Cobb '861 in that fashion. Indeed, it is common knowledge that moisture repellency is a feature that interferes with a common function of most paper, that of receiving, absorbing, and retaining ink applied by a writing instrument such as a pen or a brush. Similarly, the function of the paper disclosed in the Pearman reference would likewise be destroyed if the

paper repelled moisture, since the paper of Pearman is intended for use as a filtration material (column 2, lines 12-15) that allows moisture to pass through it (column 2, lines 47-49). Because there is no indication in the references, or in the art generally, that providing moisture repellency and durability to the paper of Cobb '861 would be an advantage, Appellants submit that the reasons articulated in the Examiner's Answer have no rational underpinning.

Appellants respectfully submit further that a fair reading of page 1, lines 4-40 of McIntosh does not suggest that the process described is equivalent to preparing a "coating" as in Cobb '861, or as the word is commonly understood.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication at page 4 of the Examiner's Answer that Cobb '861 teaches "coating a side of the paper with cellulose acetate." This construction of Cobb is consistent with Appellants' understanding of the cited teachings. This is also consistent with the passage of Cobb '861, at page 1, lines 58-60, which states that an object of that invention is to provide "a simple but practical method of making improved wrapped type of filters of the class indicated." The invention is summarized in column 1, lines 61-63, as the use of a plug (filament-filter) wrap paper coated with an adhesive (emphasis added). There being no indication that elaborate techniques are required to obtain the coating of Cobb '861, one would expect that the ordinary meaning of "coating" was intended, for example as set out in Webster's New World Dictionary, Simon & Schuster, 1980, p. 272, in which the noun "coating" is defined as "a coat or layer over a surface." Similarly, the transitive verb "coat" is defined as "to provide or cover with a coat" or "to cover with a layer of something." Id. The intended meaning is confirmed by Fig. 1 of Cobb '861, in which the "adhesive coating over entire interior of wrap" is depicted as a discrete layer covering the interior surface of the wrap.

In contrast, Appellants note that the process of McIntosh is equated in that document not with "coating" but with "impregnation," and respectfully submit that the construction of the word "impregnate" proposed in the Examiner's Answer is inconsistent with commonly understood definitions of the word in this context. Webster's New World Dictionary, Simon & Schuster, 1980, p. 706, for example, defines "impregnate" variously as "to fertilize," "to make pregnant," or "to fill or saturate; to cause to be permeated." If any of the results suggested by these definitions could be achieved merely by coating paper, as taught in Cobb '861, one wonders why McIntosh would have gone to the trouble of the elaborate process quoted in the Examiner's Answer, set out beginning at page 1, line 60 and ending at page 2, line 9 of that document, and further discussed below, that involves incorporating a cellulose ester during paper processing, and afterward treating the paper at high temperatures and pressures in the presence of steam for an extended period of time.

Indeed, having equated "coating" with "impregnating" for the purpose of asserting that claims 12-14 and 17-21 are obvious in view of the combination of Cobb' 861 with McIntosh, the Examiner's Answer goes on to take the position, at page 9, lines 10-11, that "McIntosh teaches incorporating the ester into the

paper during manufacture is *preferable* to coating (emphasis added)." Appellants agree that the process of McIntosh is *different* than coating. Whether the process of McIntosh is *preferable* to coating would, of course, depend upon the intended use of the product.

As noted in the Appeal Brief, it is not Cobb '861 nor McIntosh which suggests that coating a paper with a cellulose ester may be, for some purposes, functionally equivalent with incorporating the ester into the paper during paper manufacture, but rather Appellants' own disclosure. Because the reasons for combining the references cited in the Examiner's Answer have no rational underpinning in the references, or in the art generally, but can be found only in Appellants' own disclosure, Appellants respectfully request that the rejection be overruled.

B. McIntosh does not teach a paper product comprising pulp or rag fibers and cellulose acetate incorporated therein where the cellulose acetate functions as an adhesive

Contrary to the statement in the Response to Argument portion of the Examiner's Answer, found on page 7, lines 17-18 of the Examiner's Answer, McIntosh does *not* teach a paper product comprising pulp or rag fibers and cellulose acetate incorporated therein where the cellulose acetate functions as an adhesive. Appellants respectfully submit that this statement is entirely unsupported by the record.

C. There is no basis for the assertion that the paper product of McIntosh is analogous to the coated paper product taught by Cobb

The Examiner's Answer, quoting McIntosh, beginning on page 10, second line from the bottom, asserts that "McIntosh teaches, 'The single sheets, if they are of the desired thickness are vulcanized per se, or a laminated product is built up by superimposing one sheet upon another until the requisite thickness is obtained. In either case, the heat and pressure step is accomplished in the same manner.' (emphasis added) and 'The sheets are placed between the heated platens of a suitable press whereby they are subjected to pressure such as one thousand pounds per square inch at a temperature of one hundred and twenty-five pounds of steam. This heat and pressure are maintained for a time sufficient to cause the cellulose ester to fuse throughout the fibrous mass and to flow completely over the surface forming a continuous coating." The Examiner goes on to conclude based on the cited passage that the paper thus formed is considered analogous to the paper product (2 and 3) of Figure 1 of Cobb '861.

There is no basis for the assertion that the two are analogous, nor indeed, what features they might be expected to have in common. Webster's New World Dictionary, Simon & Schuster, 1980, p. 1594, defines the noun "vulcanization" as "the process of treating crude rubber with sulfur or its compounds and subjecting it to heat in order to make it nonplastic and increase its strength and elasticity," but perhaps the alternative definition of "a process somewhat like this, for hardening some substance" is more helpful in the present instance. If the two are indeed analogous, one wonders why the inventors of

McIntosh would not simply have coated the paper product with the cellulose ester rather than incorporating it during paper processing, and afterward treating the paper at high temperatures and pressures in the presence of steam for an extended period of time. Appellants respectfully submit that there is no basis for the assertion that the paper product of McIntosh is analogous to the coated paper of Cobb '861, and submit that this assertion should be disregarded.

In view of the arguments set forth above, Appellants believe there is no proper basis for the rejection of the claims and request that the rejection of the claims be overruled.

Evidence Appendix

Webster's New World Dictionary, Second College Edition, Simon & Schuster, New York, 1980, cover page, definitions of "coating" and "coat" at p. 272, "impregnate" at p. 706, and "vulcanization" at p. 1594.

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16 August 2007

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taken \$4. a slide or ride, as on a sled going down an incline taken \$4. a slide or ride, as on a sled going down an incline by the force of gravity \$-vi\$. 1. to sail near or along a coast, esp. from port to port \$2\$. to go down an incline on a sled \$3\$. to continue in motion on momentum or by the force of gravity after propelling power has stopped \$4\$. to continue without serious effort, letting one's past efforts carry one along \$-vi\$. 1. [Obs.] to go along the side of 2. to sail along or near the coast of \$-SYN\$. see SHORE! \$-\text{the Coast}\$ [Colloq.] \$\pi\$ in the U.S., the Pacific coast \$-\text{the coast is clear}\$ there is no apparent danger or hindrance coast \$1\$. (1) \$aj\$. of, at, near, or along a coast coast \$-\text{coast}\$ is clear there is no apparent of a possible of the coast of \$0\$. The coast is clear than \$1\$. (1) \$aj\$. of, at, near, or along a coast coast \$1\$. (2) \$aj\$. In \$1\$ a person or thing that coasts \$2\$. a ship that carries cargo or passengers from port to port

coast of (kos/tar) n. 1. a person or thing that coasts 2. a ship that carries cargo or passengers from port to port along a coast \$\pi\$3. a sled or wagon for coasting 4. [< obs. sense of coast, vi., "to pass close to or around"] formerly, a small tray, usually on wheels, for passing a wine decanter, etc. around a table 5. a small tray, mat, disk, etc. placed under a glass or bottle to protect a table or other surface \$\pi\$ coaster brake a brake in the hub of the rear wheel of a bioxele operated by reversing the pressure or the pedale. bicycle, operated by reversing the pressure on the pedals: it also releases the wheel from the driving mechanism to

permit free coasting coast guard 1. a governmental force employed to defend a coast guard 1. a governmental force employed to defend a nation's coasts, prevent smuggling, aid vessels in distress, maintain lighthouses, etc.; specif. [C-G-], such a branch of the U.S. armed forces, under the control of the Department of Transportation or, in time of war, of the Department of the Navy 2. a member of a coast guard—coast guards/man, coast guard/man, pl. -men coast-land (köst/land') n. land along a coast coast-line (-lin') n. the contour or outline of a coast Coast Mountains mountain range in W British Columbia & S Alas: highest peak, 13,260 ft.

Coast Ranges series of mountain ranges along the W coast of N. America, extending from Alas. to Baja California: highest peak, Mount Logan
coast-ward (-word) adj., adv. toward the coast: also coast-wards (-word2) adv.

coast'wards (-wardz) adv. coast wise (-wiz') adv., adj. along and near the coast: also coast'ways' (-wāz') adv.
coat (kōt) n. [ME. & OFr. cote, a coat < ML. cota, a tunic < Frank. kotta, coarse cloth (akin to G. kotze, shaggy overcoat)] 1. a sleeved outer garment opening down the front and varying in length, as a suit jacket or a topcoat or overcoat? and varying in length, as a suit jacket or a topcoat or over-coat 2. a natural outer covering of an animal, as of skin, fur, wool, etc. 3. the outer covering of a plant or of an animal structure or tissue 4. a layer of some substance, as paint, over a surface 5. [Dial.] a petticoat or skirt 6. [Obs.] customary garb of a profession, class, etc.—w. 1. to provide or cover with a coat 2. to cover with a layer of some-

vide or cover with a coat 2. to 3. thing—coat'ed adj.

coated paper a paper whose surface has been treated to take halftone impressions or color printing

Coates (kōts), Eric 1886-1958; Eng. composer

co-a-ti (kōāt'ē) n., pl. -tis [Tupi < cua, a cincture + lim, the nose: so called from appearance of its snout] any of a genus (Nasua) of small, flesh-eating, tree-dwelling mammals found in Mexico and Central and South America: it is similar to the raccoon but with a long, flexible snout

similar to the raccoon but with a long, flexible snout co.a-ti-mun.di, co.a-ti-mon.di (-mun'dē) n., pl. -dis [Tupi < prec. + mondi, solitary] some as co.ATI coat-ing (kōt'in) n. 1. a coat or layer over a surface /a coating of enamel/ 2. cloth for making coats

coat of arms [transl. of Fr. cotte d'armes, light garment worn over armor, generally blazoned with heraldic arms] a group of emblems and figures (heraldic bearings) usually arranged on and around a shield and serving as the

special insignia of some person, family, or institution coat of mail pl. coats of mail fafter Fr. colte de mailles, lit., coat of meshes] a suit of armor made of

interlinked metal rings or overlapping plates coat tail (-tal') n. the back part of

20at tail (tail') n. The back part of a coat below the waist; esp., either half of this part when divided, as on a swallow-tailed coat — wride (or hang, etc.) on (someone's) coattails to have one's success dependent on that of someone else

COAT OF ARMS

co-au-thor (kō ô'thər) n. a joint author; collaborator coax (kōks) vt. [orig. slang. "to make a coax of" < obs. slang coax, cox, cokes, a fool, ninny] 1. to induce or try to induce to do something; (seek to) persuade by soothing words, agreeable manner, etc.; wheedle 2. to get by coaxing use gentle persuasion, urging, etc.

—vi. to use gentle persuasion, urging, etc. —coax'er n. —coax'ing.ly adv. SYN.—coax suggests repeated attempts to persuade someone to do something and implies the use of soothing words, an insinuating manner, etc.; cajole suggests the use of flattery or other blandishments; wheedle implies even more strongly the use of subtle flattery or seduction in gaining one's ends

co-ax.i.al (ko ak'so ol) adj. [co-+ AXIAL] 1. having a common axis: also co-ax'al 2. designating a compound loud-speaker consisting of a smaller unit mounted within and connected with a larger one on a common axis: the smaller unit reproduces the nigher frequencies, beyond the range of

the larger \$\ppsi 3\$. designating a high-frequency transmission line or cable in which a solid or stranded central conductor is surrounded by an insulating medium which, in turn, is surrounded by a solid or braided outside conductor in the

surrounded by a solid or braided outside conductor in the form of a cylindrical shell: it is used for sending telephone, telegraph, television, etc. impulses cob' (käb) n. [ME., prob. < LowG., as in Du. kobbe < Gmc. base *kubb., something rounded] 1. [Brit. Dial.] a) a lump or small mass, as of coal b) a leader; chief \$\ppi 2\$. a corncob 3. a male swan 4. a short, thickset horse with a high gait cob' (käb) n. [prob. < EFris. kobbe] the great, black-backed gull (Larus marinus), found in the northern Atlantic regions; also so, cobb

cob² (käb) n. [prob. < EFris. kobbe] the great, black-backed gull (Larus marinus), found in the northern Atlantic regions: also sp. cobb co-balt (kö/bölt) n. [G. kobalt < kobold, goblin, demon of the mines: term used by miners, who regarded it as worthless, from belief that goblins substituted it for silver] a hard, lustrous, steel-gray, ductile metallic chemical element, found in various ores: it is used in the preparation of alloys; its compounds are used in the production of inks, paints, and varnishes: symbol, Co; at. wt., 58.9332; at. no., 27; sp. gr., 8.71; melt. pt., 1495°C; boil. pt., 2900°C: a radioactive isotope (cobalt 60) is used in the treatment of cancer, in industrial radiography and research, etc. cobalt blue 1. a dark blue pigment consisting of a mixture of cobalt and aluminum oxides 2. dark blue co-balt-tic (kō bôl/tik) adi. 1. of cobalt 2. designating or of compounds in which cobalt has a valence of three co-balt-tite (kō/bôl tit/) n. cobalt sulfarsenide, CoAsS, a silver-white mineral: also co/balt-ine' (-tēn') co-bal-tous (kō bôl/tas) adj. designating or of compounds in which cobalt has a valence of two cob-ber (kāb'ar) n. [prob. < Heb. (via Yid.) chaver, a comradel [Australian Slang] a close companion; comrade Cob-belt (kāb'ri), William (pseud. Peter Porcupine) 1762?—1835; Eng. journalist & political reformer cob-ble¹ (kāb'ri) n. [prob. < Cob¹] 1. a cobblestone 2. [pl.] same as COB COAL —vt.-bled, -bling to pave with cobble-stones

stones
acob.bler¹ (käb/lər) n. [of U.S. orig. < ?] 1. an iced drink
containing wine, whiskey, or rum, citrus fruit, sugar, etc. 2.
a deep-dish fruit pie usually with a thick top crust of biscuit dough
cob.bler² (käb/lər) n. [ME. cobelere: see COBBLE¹] 1. a

cmt dougn

cob·bler² (käb²lər) n. [ME. cobelere: see COBBLE¹] 1. a
person whose work is mending shoes 2. [Archaic] a clumsy,

person whose work is mending shoes 2. [Archaic] a clumsy, bungling workman cob-ble-stone (käb'l' ston') n. [ME. cobel ston: see COBBLE² + STONE] a rounded stone of a kind formerly much used for paying streets cob coal [see cob¹] coal in large rounded lumps Cob-den (käb'dən), Richard 1804-65; Eng. political economist & statesman: advocate of free trade co-bel·lig-er-ent (kō'bə lij'ərənt) n. a nation associated but not formally allied with another or others in waging war

but not formally allied with another or others in waging war

Cob·ham (kāb'am), Lord see Oldcastle

co·bi·a (kō'bēa) n. [< ?] a large, voracious game fish (Rachycentron canadum) found in warm seas: it has a conspicuous black stripe along each side of the body co·ble (kō'b'l, kāb''l) n. [ME. cobel < OE. cuopel, prob. < Celt., as in W. ceubal, Bret. caubal (whence? L. caupulus)]

1. a small fishing boat with a lug sail, deep stem, large rudder, and flattish stern, used off the eastern coast of England 2. in Scotland, a short, flat-bottomed rowboat Co·blenz (kō'blents) same as Koblenz

cob·nut (kāb'nut') n. [see Cobl'] same as filbert

CO-BOL (kō'bôl) [co(mmon) b(usiness)-o(riented) l(anguage)] a digital computer language employing English words, used in business applications: also written Cobol (co·bra (kō'bra) n. [< Port. cobra (de capello), serpent (of the hood) < L. colubra, a snake]

1. any of a genus (Naja) of very poisonous snakes of Asia and Africa having around the neck loose skin which is expanded into a hood when the snake is excited

2. leather made of the skin of

a hood when the snake is excited leather made of the skin of this snake

cobra de ca pel·lo (de ka pel·o)

cobra de ca·pel·lo (dē kə pel/ō)
pl. cobras de capello [see prec.]
a varicolored cobra (Naja naja),
esp. of India, with a marking on
the hood that looks like an eye
Co-burg (kō/bərg) city in N
Bavaria, Germany: pop. 46,000
cob·web (käb'web') n. [ME.
copweb < coppe, spider (< OE.
-coppe, in alorcoppe < alor, poison + -coppe, spider + WEB]
1. a web spun by a spider 2: a
single thread of such a web 3. anything filmsy, gauzy, or
ensnaring, like the web of a spider —ut. -webbed', -web'bing to cover with or as with cobwebs —cob'web' by adj.
co·ca (kō'kə) n. [Quechuan cuca] 1. any of a family of
tropical S. American shrubs, esp. a species (Erythroxylon
coca) whose dried leaves are the source of cocaine and some
other alkaloids 2. these dried leaves



leaves: it i co cain isr from exces co cain ize with cocai -coc·cal (k by a (spe -coc·cic (-s coc·ci (käk coc·cid (kä < Gr. ko, (Coccidae) coc·cid·i·o ModL. Co by a fung respiratory coc·cid·i·o + -osis] birds, and (Coccidia) coc·cif·er· coc cold (specified coc·co·lith -LITH] a m

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rooster b the crowi woodcock weatherco ness or a flow of a ! position (turning u jauntily (4. a) to s set (a trij to be rele to strike [Archaic] cock² (käl pile < IE

cock ade sembland on the hi conventio cock-a-h a crest1 conceited

cone-shar

fat, āpe, c e for a in ü, Pr. du

confirmed —impose on (or upon) 1. [Rare] to make a strong impression on 2. to take advantage of; put to some trouble or use unfairly for one's own benefit 3. to cheat or defraud —im-pos'er n.

im-pos-ing (-pô'zin) adj. making a strong impression because of great size, strength, dignity, etc.; impressive —SYN. see GRAND —im-pos'ing-ly adv.

im-po-si-tion (im'po zish'an) n. [ME. < OFr. < L. imposing, on application] 1. an imposing or imposing on; specif., a) the forcing of oneself, one's presence or will, etc. on another or others without right or invitation; obtrusion b) a taking advantage of friendship, etc. c) the laying on of hands, as in ordination or confirmation 2. something imposed; specif., a) a tax, fine, etc. b) an unjust burden or requirement c) a deception; fraud 3. the arrangement of type pages or plates in the proper order of printing

etc. c) the taying on or hands.

tion 2. something imposed; specif. a) a tax, fine, etc. b) an unjust burden or requirement c) a deception; fraud 3. the arrangement of type pages or plates in the proper order of printing im-pos-si-blu-ity (im-pas-si-bil/3 till) at ity (im-pas-si-bil/3 till) at ity (im-pas-si-bil/3 till) at ithe fact or quality of being im-pos-si-bil (im-pas-si-bil (im-pas-si-bil) adj. [ME. < OFr. < L. im-pos-si-bil (im-pas-si-bil) adj. [ME. < OFr. < L. im-pos-being done, or happening 2. not capable of being done easily or conveniently 3. not capable of being endured, used, agreed to, etc. because disagreeable or unsuitable las-disagreed in the si-bil (im-pas-si-bil) adv. [MI. im-pos-si-bil (im-pas-si-bil) adv. [MI. im-pos-si-bil (im-pas-si-bil) adv. [MI. im-pos-si-bil (im-pos-si-bil) adv. [MI. im-pos-si-bil (im-pas-si-bil) adv. [MI. im-pos-si-bil (im-pas-si-bil) adv. [MI. im-pos-si-bil (im-pas-si-bil (im-pas-si-bil

ni) + powe < L. pauper, Poors] 1. to make poor; reduce to power ty 2. to deprive of strength, resources, etc. —Improver ty 2. to deprive of strength, resources, etc. —Improver tim power (im power) wt. obs. var. of EMPOWER im-prac ti-ca-ble (im prak/ti ka b'!) adj. [< ln²+ PRACTI-timpracticable plan] 2. not capable of being used /an impracticable plan] 2. not capable of being used /an impracticable road] 3. [Now Rare] not capable of being managed or dealt with; intractable /an impracticable person/prac'ti-ca-bli'-ty, im-prac'ti-ca-ble-ness n. —Imprac'ti-ca-bli'-ty, im-prac'ti-ca-ble-ness n. —Imprac'ti-ca-bli'-ty, im-prac'ti-ca-ble-ness n. —Imprac'ti-ca-bli'-ty, im-prac'ti-cal-ness n. —Imprac'ti-cal-in-p

im pre-ca tion (im/pro kā/shon) n. [L. imprecatio] 1. the

im·pre·ca·tion (im/prə kā/shən) n. [L. imprecatio] 1. the act of imprecating evil, etc. on someone 2. a curse—im/pre·ca·to/ry (-kə tôr/ē) adj.
im·pre·cise (im/pri sis/) adj. not precise, exact. or definite; vague—im/pre·cise(im/pri sis/) adj. not precise, exact. or definite; vague—im/pre·cise(y adv.—im/pre·cision (-sizh/ən) n.
im·preg.na·ble (im preg/na b'l) adj. [ME. imprenable OFr.: see IN.3 & PREGNABLE] 1. not capable of being captured or entered by force 2. unshakable; unyielding; firm /an impregnable belief)—im·preg'na·bl/i·ty n.—im-preg'na·bly adv.

preg'na bly adv.
im.preg na ble² (im preg'na b'l) adj. [IMPREGN(ATE) +

im.preg.na.ble² (im preg'nə b'l) adj. [IMPREGN(ATE) + -ABLE] that can be impregnated im.preg.nate (im preg'nāt; for adj.-nit) vt.-nat.ed, -nat.ing [< LL. impracenatus, pp. of impraegnare, to make pregnant < L. in., in + praegnans, PREGNANT] 1. to fertilize (an ovum) 2. to make pregnant 3. to fertilize (land); make fruitful 4. to fill or saturate; cause to be permeated/clothing impregnated with smoke) 5. to indoctrinate or imbue (with ideas, feelings, principles, etc.) —

adj. impregnated; pregnant —SYN. see SOAK —Im'pregna'tion n. —Im-preg'na-tor n.
im-pre-sa (im prā'za) n. [It.: see fl.] [Obs.] a device or emblem, usually with a motto im-pre-sa-ri-o (im'pro-sā'reō, -ser'-) n., pl. -ri-os [It. < impresa, enterprise < imprendere, to undertake < VL. impresa, enterprise < imprendere, to undertake < VL. impresa, enterprise < imprendere, to undertake < VL. impresa enterprise < imprendere, to undertake < VL. impresa enterprise < imprendere, to undertake < VL. impresa impresaries, etc. im-pre-scrip-ti-ble (im'pri skrip'ta b'i) adj. [Fr.: see IN-2 im-pre-scrip-ti-ble (im'pri skrip'ta b'i) adj. [Fr.: see IN-2 im-press' (im pres'; for n. im'pres) vl. [< IN-1 + PRESS'] 1. to draft or force (men) into public service, esp. into a navy 2. to levy, seize, or requisition (money, property, im-press' (im pres'; for n. im'pres) vl. [ME. impressen < L. impressus, pp. of imprimere: see IN-1 & PRESS'] 1. to use pressure on so as to leave a mark /to impress clay with a die/ 2. to mark by using pressure; stamp; imprint 3. to apply with pressure /to impress a die into clay/ 4. a) to have a marked effect on the mind or emotions of b) to arouse the interest or approval of 5. to implant firmly on the mind or fix in the memory 6. Elec. to apply (a voltage or current) to a circuit or device, as from a generator —n. 1. the act of impressing 2. any mark, imprint, etc. made by pressure; stamp; impression 3. a distinctive quality or effect produced by some strong influence —SYN. see impressed; impressionable —Im-press'i-bill'itter and selections.

im-press-i-ble (-a b'l) adj. [ML. impressibilis] that can be impressed; impressionable —im-press'i-bil'i-ty n. —im-

im-pressed; impressionable —Im-press't-bit'ty n. —im-press't-bity adv.
impressed; impressionable —Im-press't-bit'ty n. —im-press't-bity adv.
im-pres-sion (im-presh'ən) n. [ME. impressioun < OPr. impression < L. impressio] 1. the act of impressing 2. a result or effect of impressing; specif., a) a mark, imprint, etc. made by physical pressure b) an effect produced, as on the mind or senses, by some force or influence c) the effect produced by any effort or activity /hard cleaning made little impression on the stain) 3. a notion, feeling, or recollection, esp. a vague one 4. a first or single coat of paint or color 5. an imitation or mimicking intended as a caricature or amusing impersonation 6. Dentistry the imprint of the teeth and surrounding tissues in wax, plaster, etc., used as a mold in making dentures 7. Printing a) the pressing or pressure of type or plates on paper, etc.; printing b) a printed copy c) all the copies printed in a single operation from a set of unaltered type or plates—SYN. see IDEA—im-pres/sion-alad/, im-pres-sion-a-ble (im-presh/ənəb'l) adj. [Fr.] easily affected by impressions; esp., capable of being influenced intellectually, emotionally, or morally; sensitive—im-pres-sion-a-ble (im-presh/ənəb'l) adj. [Fr.] easily im-pres-sion-ism (-iz'm) n. [< Fr. impressionisme, coined in 1874 after a Monet painting exemplified chiefly by Monet, Pissarro, and Sisley, but also by Manet, Renoir, etc., whose chief aim is to capture a momentary glimpse of a subject, esp. to reproduce the changing effects of light by applying paint to canvas in short strokes of pure color: the term has been extended to literature, as in the novels of the Goncourt brothers and in symbolist poetry, and to music, as by Debussy and Ravel, which seeks to produce im-pres-sion-ist (-ist) n. 1. a painter, writer, or composer impressioniss, or impersonations—adj. of impressionism or impressionism

impressionists
im-pres-sion-is-tic (im presh's nis'tik) adj. 1. same as
IMPRESSIONIST 2. conveying a quick or overall impression
im-pres'sion-is'ti-cal-ly adv.
im-pres-sive (im pres'iv) adj. having or tending to have a
strong effect on the mind or emotions; eliciting wonder or
admiration—im-pres'sive-ly adv.
im-press-ment (-ment) n. [IMPRESS! + -MENT] the practice
or act of impressing men or property for the use or service
of the public

of act of impressing men or property for the use or service of the public im-pres-sure (im presh'ər) n. [IMPRESS? + -URE] [Archaic] im-press (im'prest) n. [It. impresto, a loan < (dare) in prestito, (to give) in loan < in, in + prestito, a loan < prestare, to lend < L. praestare, to become surety for, lit., to stand before; prae-, before + stare, to STAND] a loan or advance of money, as from government funds —adj. Accounting designating a fund, as of petty, cash, that is replenished in exactly the amount expended from it im pri-ma-tur (im'pri-mat'ar, -mat') n. [ModL., lit., let it be printed, 3d pers. sing., pres. sub) pass., of L. impri-marce: see IMPRINT] 1. license or permission to publish or print a book, article, etc.; specif., R.C.Ch. such permission granted by an ecclesiastical censor 2. any sanction or approval

im-pri-mis (im pri/mis) adv. [ME. inprimis < L. in primis

im pri·mis (im pri'mis) adv. [ME. inprimis < L. in primis, lit., among the first < in, among + primis, abl. pl. of primis, first: see PRIME] in the first place im print (im print'; for n. im'print) vt. [ME. emprenten < OFr. empreinter < empreinte, an imprint < pp. of empreinter < l. imprimer < in· on + premere, to pressil 1. to mark by or as by pressing or stamping; impress /to imprint a paper with a seal/ 2. to make as a mark or impression 3. to press or apply /to imprint a kiss on the fore-

impri.

head/ 4. to -n. 1. a n characterist lisher's or I at the end c publication m.print.ir. nism operat a particular versible be stimulus in im·pris·on 2. to restri ment n.

im-prob-aprobable; r prob·a·bil' im·pro·bi·i L. improbil m.promp. promptu, ir readiness out prepai impromptu SYN.—Imp done on the spontaneity; as an adverl are now mor tion, but he applies to so and, with a ingenious us immediate n im · prop · er proprius: s with the pi in accordan 3. contrar

ness n. SYN.—im; refers to any does not con that which i her unseem that which i ter, etc. / hi decorous r-behavior, si indelicate modesty or that which (indecent ex improper less than t im-pro-pr -at'ed, -at are, to tak 1. to trans viduals of having be

im · pro · pr improprié

1. the qu

behavior "borrow" im·prove |
< Anglo-]
LL. prode
of advant good advi to make (condition than, as —im·prov SYN.—im of somethi seeking son self); ame tion to be worsen, it im prove improving

increase c) profita somethin of excelle ertv. as a im·prov·i in-, not PROVIDE] sight or tl

fat, āpe, ci e for a in a u, Pr. duc voting; decide against —vote in to elect —vote out to defeat (an incumbent) in an election —vote/less adj. vot-er (vōt/ər) n. a person who has a right to vote; elector, esp. one who actually votes archine on which votes in an election are cast registered, and counted

esp. one who actually votes a voting machine a machine on which votes in an election are cast, registered, and counted votive (vôt'iv) adj. [L. votivus < votum: see vote] 1. given, dedicated, consecrated, done, etc. in fulfillment of a vow or pledge (votive offerings) 2. R.C.Ch. designating or of a special or extraordinary Mass said at the priest's option vouch (vouch) vt. [ME. vouchen < OFr. vocher < L. vocare, to call < vox, voice] 1. to uphold by demonstration or evidence 2. [Archaic] a) to attest, affirm, or guarantee b) to call as witness c) to cite (authority, books, etc.) in support of one's views or actions 3. in old English law, to call (a person) into court to give warranty of title—vi. 1. to give assurance, affirmation, or a guarantee (with for) (to vouch for someone's honesty) 2. to serve as evidence or assurance (for) / references vouching for his ability)—n. [Obs.] the act of vouching; assertion or attestation voucher, to vouch] 1. a person who vouches, as for the truth of a statement 2. a paper serving as evidence or proof; specif., a receipt or statement attesting to the expenditure or receipt of money, the accuracy of an account, etc.

account, etc.

vouch safe (vouch sāf') vt. -safed', -saf'ing [contr. of ME. vouchen safe, to vouch as safe] to be gracious enough or condescend to give or grant [to vouchsafe a reply]—

vouches safe, to vouch as safe) to be gracious enough or condescend to give or grant [to vouchsafe a reply]—vouch safe/ment n. [Fr. < OFr. volsoir, curvature of a vault < VL. *volsorium < *volsus, for L. volutus, pp. of volvere, to roll: see Walk] Archit. any of the wedge-shaped stones of which an arch or vault is built

vow (vou) n. [ME. vou < OFr. < L. volum: see vote] 1. a solemn promise or pledge, esp. one made to God or a god, dedicating oneself to an act, service, or way of life 2. a solemn promise of love and fidelity [marriage vows] 3. a solemn affirmation or assertion—vi. 1. to promise solemnly 2. to make a solemn resolution to do, get, etc. 3. to declare emphatically, earnestly, or solemnly—vi. to make a vow—take vows to enter a religious order—vow/er n.

vow-el (vou/al, voul) n. [ME. vowelle < MFr. vouel < L. vocalis [littera), vocal (letter), vowel < vox, volce] 1. a voiced speech sound characterized by generalized friction of the air passing in a continuous stream through the pharynx and opened mouth but with no constriction narrow enough to produce local friction; the sound of the greatest prominence in most syllables 2. a letter, as a, e, i, o, u, and sometimes y, representing such a sound Cf. consonant—adj, of a vowel or vowels vowel ize (vou/a liz') u. -lzed', -lz'ing to add vowel points to / to vowelize a Hebrew text/—vow'el i za'tion,n. vowel point in certain languages whose written form normally consists only of consonants, as Hebrew, a diacritical mark accompanying a consonant (to indicate an initial vowel sound) roll in certain languages whose written form normally consists only of consonants, as Hebrew, a diacritical mark accompanying a consonant (to indicate an initial vowel sound) roll in certain languages whose written form normally consists only of consonants, as Hebrew, a diacritical mark accompanying a consonant (to indicate an initial vowel sound) roll in certain languages whose written form normally consists only of consonants, as Hebrew, a diacritical mark accompanying a consonan

voix celeste
vox hu-ma-na (hyōō mā'nə, -mān'ə) [L., human voice]
a reed organ stop with very short pipes in which only the
higher harmonics are reinforced
vox po-pu-li (pāp'yoo li') [L.] the voice of the people;
public opinion or sentiment: abbrev. vox pop.
voy age (voi'ij) n. [ME. viage < OFr. veiage, a voyage < L.
vialicum, provision for a journey < vialicus, of a journey
or passage by water or, formerly, by land 2. a journey
by aircraft or spacecraft 3. a written account of a voyage
4. [Obs.] a project; enterprise —vi.—saed, -ag-ing to make
a voyage; travel —vi. to sail or travel over or on —SYN.
see TRIP —voy'ag-en n.

to-ya-geur (vwa ya zhēr') n. bl. -daure! (zhēr!) [P.—
to-ya-geur (vwa ya zhēr') n. bl. -daure! (zhēr!) [P.—

a voyage; travel —vt. to sail or travel over or on —SYN. see TRIP —voy'ag er n.

tvo ya geur (vwå yå zhër') n., pl. -geurs' (-zhër') [Fr., a traveler] in Canada, 1. formerly, a person who transported goods and men by boat to trading posts for the fur companies 2. any woodsman or boatman of the Canadian wilds Voy.ag eurs National Park (voi'ij arz) [after prec.] national park in a lake region of northernmost Minn., on the border of Ontario, Canada: 343 sq. mi. vo.yeur (vwä yur', voi ur') n. [Fr. < voir, to see < L. videre: see Vision] a person who has an exaggerated interest in viewing sexual objects or activities to obtain sexual gratification; peeping Tom —vo.yeur'lsm n. — vo'yeur'ls'tic adj.

sexual gratification; peeping Tom —vo-yeur'ism n. — vo'yeur-ist'tic adi;
V.P., VP Vice-President
V.R. [L. Victoria Regina] Queen Victoria
V.Rev. Very Reverend
vroom (vroom) n. [echoic] any of the sounds made by a motor vehicle in accelerating —vi. [Colloq.] to make, or move off with, such sounds
VS. versus

move off with, such sounds vs. versus V.S. Veterinary Surgeon v.s. [L. vide supra] see above V sign [V(clory)] a gesture made by raising the hand with the middle and index fingers separated to form a V, showing a wish for victory or success or expressing approval V.S.O. very superior (or special) old: of brandy

V.S.O.P. very superior (or special) old pale: of brandy

vss. versions $\frac{d}{dt} V/STOL [v(ertical \ or) \ s(hort) \ t(ake)o(ff \ and) \ l(anding)]$ an aircraft that can take off and land either vertically or on a short airstrip

VT variable time Vt. Vermont

vt., v.t. transitive verb *VTOL [v(ertical) t(ake)o(ff and) l(anding)] an aircraft, usually other than a helicopter, that can take off and land vertically TR video tape recorder

land vertically

VTR video tape recorder

VU volume unit

vug, vugg, vugh (vug, voog) n. [Corn. vooga, a cave]

Mining a cavity or hollow in a rock or lode, often lined

with crystals — vug'gy adj. glere, gleest

Vuil-lard (vwē yàr'), Jean É-douard (zhän ā dwâr')

1868-1940; Fr. painter

Vul-can (vul'k'n) [L. Vulcanus, Volcanus] Rom. Myth. the
god of fire and of metalworking: later identified with the
Greek god Hephaestus

Vul-ca-ni-an (vul kā'nē ən) adj. [L. Vulcanius, of Vulcan]

1. of, characteristic of, associated with, or made by, Vulcan

2. [v-] having to do with metalworking 3. [v-] Geol. a)

same as Volcanic b) of or pertaining to a volcanic explosion emitting a large cloud of gases bearing fine ash and a
mass of viscous lava that hardens in the air

vul-can-ite (-nit') n. [Vulcan + -Ite] a hard rubber made
by treating crude rubber with a large amount of sulfur and
subjecting it to intense heat; ebonite: used in combs,
electrical insulation, etc.

vul-can-i-za-tion (vul'kan i zā'shan) n. [< fl. + -ATION]

1. the process of treating crude rubber with sulfur or its
compounds and subjecting it to heat in order to make it
nonplastic and increase its strength and elasticity 2. a
process somewhat like this, for hardening some substance
vul-can-ize (vul'ka niz') m.-ized', -iz'ing [Vulcan + -Ize]
to subject to vulcanization —vi. to undergo vulcanization

—vul'can-iz'e n.

vul'can iz'er n.
vul'can iz'er n.
vul'can iz'er n.

vul-can-ol-o-gy (vul'kə näl'ə jē) n. same as VOLCANOLOGY Vulg. Vulgate vul-gar (vul'gər) adj. [ME. < L. vulgaris < vulgus, volgus, the common people < IE. base *wel-, to crowd, throng, whence Gr. eilein, to press, swarm] 1. of, characteristic of, belonging to, or common to the great mass of people in general; common; popular [a vulgar superstition] 2. designating, of, or in the popular, or vernacular, speech 3. a) characterized by a lack of culture, refinement, taste, restraint, sensitivity, etc.; coarse; crude; boorish b) indecent or obscene—n. 1. [Archaic] the common people (with the) 2. [Obs.] the vernacular —SYN. see COARSE, COMMON—vul'gar-ly adv.

-vulgar ly adv.
vulgar fraction same as COMMON FRACTION

vulgar iraction same as COMMON FRACTION
vulgar.i.an (vul ger/ē an, -gar/-) n. a vulgar person; esp.,
a rich person with coarse, ostentatious manners or tastes
vulgar.ism (vul/gər iz'm) n. 1. a word, phrase, or expression that is used widely but is regarded as nonstandard,
unrefined, coarse, or obscene 2. vulgar behavior, quality,

unrefined, coarse, or obscene 2. vulgar penavior, quanty, etc.; vulgarity vul-gar.i-ty (vul gar'a tē) n. [LL. vulgaritas] 1. the state or quality of being vulgar, crude, coarse, unrefined, etc. 2. pl. -tes a vulgar act, habit, usage in speech, etc. vul-gar.i-za-tion (vul/gar i zā'shan) n. 1. the act or an instance of making something, as abstruse or highly technical information, more readily intelligible or widely known 2. the act or an instance of making vulgar, coarse, unrefined obscene, etc.

2. the act or an instance of making vulgar, coarse, unic-fined, obscene, etc. vul-gar-ize (vul/ga riz') vt.-ized', -iz'ing 1. to cause to be more widely known, more easily understood, etc.; popular-ize 2. to make vulgar, coarse, unrefined, obscene, etc.

ize 2. to make vulgar, coarse, unrefined, obscene, etc.—vul'gar-iz'er n.

Vulgar Latin the everyday speech of the Roman people, from which the Romance languages developed; popular Latin as distinguished from standard or literary Latin Vul.gate (vul'gāt, -git) n. [ML. vulgata (editio), popular (edition) < L. vulgatus, common, usual, orig, pp. of vulgare, to make common < vulgus: see Vul.Gar] 1. a Latin version of the Bible prepared by St. Jerome in the 4th cent, serving as an authorized version of the Roman Catholic Church 2. [v-] a) any text or version in common accept-ance b) the vernacular, or common speech—adj. 1. of or in the Vulgate 2. [v-] commonly accepted; popular; specif., of or in the vernacular, or common speech vul.ner.a.ble (vul'nərəbil) adj. [LL. vulnerabilis, wounding, likely to injure (also, in pass. sense, vulnerable) < L. vulnerare, to wound < vulnus (gen. vulneris), a wound < IE. base *wel-, to tear, wound, whence OE. wal. carnage: cf. VALKYRIE] 1. that can be wounded or physically injured 2. a) open to criticism or attack /a vulnerable reputation b) easily hurt, as by adverse criticism; sensitive c) affected by a specified influence, temptation, etc. /vulnerable to political pressure/ 3. open to attack by armed forces 4. Bridge liable to increased penalties and entitled to increased bonuses: said of a team which has won one game —vul'ner-a.bll'ity n. —vul'ner-a.bly adv. vul-ner-ar-y (vul'na rer'ē) adj. [L. vulnerarius < vulnus, a wound: see prec.] used for healing wounds —n., pl. -ar'les any vulnerary drug, plant, etc.

vul-pine a fox] 1 tear: for ABLE] 1. birds (fa: to the e head and feed chie and are i perate r KEY BU? ruthless others vul-tur-i [L. vulti characte or vultu vul·va (

vuli

letter (in Ang A.D., i in the Norma in Eng contin diphth answer
W or r
group
W or r
in a se
W [w(c W, w v W, W., W. 1. 1. W. width w. 1. W.A. V Waadt WAAF Waal (west ! Rhine Wa.ba Onabi W Ol wab·b wWac WAC Wace icler: wacl
 wac pl. -0 wack -Y²: c -wa Wa⋅cı Tex., soft: etc. rial 1 hem firm large into 5. to fat. 3